

International House magazine



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

International
House

Celebrating 50 years of international
understanding and friendship

Is the world coming
together or falling apart?

Beauty & Banking
in India

2017 Rosemary Berrick
Photography finalists

Alumni profile:
Dr Adrian Buzo





From the editors

The notion of perspectives invites us to consider different ways of seeing the world. In this issue of the International House magazine, we find our residents and alumni sharing their unique perspectives through stories and images of their life, their work and their travels.

IH alumnus Dr Adrian Buzo provides us with a fascinating read covering the range of pleasant distractions he enjoyed as a resident in the early 1970s, and concluding with his becoming a now widely regarded expert in North Korean language and affairs. The many twists and turns of his life story are mirrored by Professor Louise Baur’s equally fascinating career. In her Foundation Day Address, Professor Baur reveals her perspectives on children’s health, and what she learned from working outside of her comfort zone.

The 50th anniversary year of the House has provided opportunities for big celebrations and discussions of big ideas. Our public roundtable in July brought together six eminent leaders to offer their diverse perspectives on the question ‘Is the world coming together or falling apart?’ IH Fellow Dr Keith Suter offers a concise exposition of this evening’s discussion, and we encourage all interested readers to follow the links to our website, where a full-length video of the event is available to view on demand.

Finally, our residents offer diverse views of the world through their own eyes, and their own lenses. The winners and finalists of the annual SUIHAA Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition reveal the breadth of our residents’ worldliness with images from as far afield as Athens, Antarctica, and the Himalayas (and one closer to home; a kangaroo in a vineyard).

The diverse world views of our residents and alumni are just one of the great privileges of being part of International House, one which better enables us to see the world through the eyes of others.

Dr Bradley Kunda
Rochelle Whatman

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Front cover: Katelyn Bauer, *Sentinel* [detail] (First Prize Winner, 2017 Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition).

Inside cover: Jordan Hanxi Kim at Food Fair 2017. Photo: © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.

Above: Visitors attend the 50th Anniversary Art & History Exhibition in the Wool Room. Photo: © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.

From the Director



In the blink of an eye the 50th anniversary of International House is about to conclude. I would like to thank everyone involved for their support and participation in our calendar of events, for attending the celebrations, and for contributing in so many different ways. IH is truly a remarkable global community of people connected through their shared belief in international understanding and friendship.

2017 has been filled with numerous celebratory events and activities, several of which are recounted in this issue. This year has also been a productive one in terms of consolidating our position and planning for our future. We have developed a new strategic plan in line with the University's updated strategy, which aims to further develop the House's community and infrastructure to ensure it continues to thrive over the next 50 years.

Much of our success over the past 50 years is due to the contribution and engagement of our residents, dedicated staff, Fellows, members of Council, alumni, and many others – too many to name here. One must also consider the significant contribution to the House of some very special people; people such as Graeme de Graaff, without whom the House would not have been grounded in such a strong culture of international understanding and respect, thereby enabling the formation of so many life-long friendships.

Over 6,000 residents have passed through the doors of International House, many of whom believe that their experience changed their lives for the better. I am confident that our future residents will continue to value and promote the aims of International House, which are now well established in the foundations of the past 50 years.

Thank you for your continued support in our 50th year and for the years ahead.

Jessica Carroll
Director, International House

Image: Jessica Carroll with daughter Hannah and artist Bronwyn Bancroft at the 50th Anniversary Art and History Exhibition. © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.

From the Chairperson of the International House Members' Association

Wow! Another year is almost over and I find myself writing my second contribution to this publication.

I have had the privilege to preside over the International House Members' Association this year, the year of the House's 50th Anniversary. While I may be the person writing this article and giving speeches, the people who actually make this organisation run are those whom I depend 100% on. Without the fabulous work of Pippa Herden, Wei Shern Wong and 21 other dedicated members of the IHMA Committee, there would simply be no members' association.

This year, IHMA has seen a slew of brilliant activities including events that have never been run before.

The Harbour Cruise of semester 1 and the IHMA Ball in semester 2 were real highlights, and were successful thanks to the unswerving capabilities of our Social Committee. The Food Fair has always been a significant event in semester 1, and this year it was simply brilliant. According to one staff member, it was the "best in 14 years". The "carnival" theme

and culinary professionalism showed by our residents eclipsed all else that night, and the work of our Food Coordinators didn't disappoint. In semester 2, the Dessert Fair paired up with Trivia Night for a fantastic display of desserts from around the world, once again showcasing the ability of IH residents to come together and celebrate their similarities and differences in an atmosphere of complete inclusion.

But of course one of the best nights of the year is always I-Night! This year, the I-Night crew led the audience through an incredibly themed jungle setting, delivering a stunning show. With countless displays of talent, a beautiful set and flawless technical performance, this year's I-Night was superb.

Our participation in the first year of the Intramural Arts Competition was wonderfully managed by our Intramural Coordinator, with IH placing second overall. While the creative people in the House excelled in the arts competitions, the athletes dominated many of the sporting events, with the men's intramural teams placing first and the women's placing

second thanks to the strong guidance and organisation of our Sports Coordinators. The results from both the arts and sports competitions reflect the incredible diversity of talent IH sees every year.

For the first time, IHMA collaborated with several USU societies in bringing the first "Humans of Sydney City" event to the Wool Room, seeing almost 100 people attending an open discussion on multiculturalism. We hope to continue this connection into future years. And the way IH continues to celebrate its cultural diversity has once again shone brightly, with increased funding this year in support of a multitude of cultural events organised by the Committee and resident groups. 2017 has been a truly great year, and I am proud to say it has been an incredible experience being Chairperson of IHMA during its 50th Anniversary. I look forward to assisting the future leaders of the House as they take on the responsibility in 2018, and am confident of their success.

Stephen Sanders
IHMA Chairperson

(The 2017 IHMA Committee members are listed on page 23)

Is the world coming together or falling apart?

International House Fellow, global futurist, and national and foreign media commentator Dr Keith Suter recalls an evening of weighty discussion by a panel of eminent leaders.

“Is the world coming together or falling apart?”

This was the provocative question discussed at the 50th Anniversary Roundtable held on July 3, 2017.

International House was formed at a time of great turbulence, with both the Cold War and Vietnam conflict underway. Fifty years on the world is still turbulent, albeit with a different type of unrest. World War III was avoided, and Australia has good relations with Vietnam, now an important Australian tourist destination.

The chair of the roundtable was Dr Simon Longstaff, Executive Director of the Ethics Centre, who kept the thought-provoking discussion focussed. He asked panellists whether they were optimistic or pessimistic about the state of the world.

Dr Helen Szoke, CEO of Oxfam Australia, said she remained optimistic. This was based on her experience of campaigning for greater human, economic, and social development where she had seen progress made.

Geoff Cousins, Chair of the Australian Conservation Foundation, was worried about the lack of political leadership but encouraged by the way in which the values vacuum was being filled by non-governmental organisations that are mobilizing people in ways that political parties are not.

Dorothy Hoddinott (Principal of Holroyd High School and Senate Fellow of the University of Sydney) said she was pessimistic when she looked at the state of the world, highlighting the 63 million displaced persons, and yet an

“Recent political events, such as the elections of Donald Trump and Pauline Hanson, also focussed consideration on the need to both celebrate diversity and oppose inequality. As long as there was inequality, there was the risk that extremist politicians would exploit discontent.”



optimist when she looked at what her school had achieved (for example, 60 per cent of her students were asylum seekers). Sydney cultural leader, Dr Jamal Rifi, was positive about the state of the world, though lamented the inadequate media coverage of Islamic matters. He urged people to look behind the headlines to see the positive stories.

Professor Jakelin Troy, Ngarigu woman and Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research at the University of Sydney, expressed her concern about the loss of linguistic diversity. But she was inspired by the resilience of Indigenous peoples, and she cautioned that the health of the planet depended on listening to them.

Dr Richard Denniss, Chief Economist of the Australia Institute, noted that Australia and the wider world had become much richer in the past 50 years.

He acknowledged that there were still social problems, and in this time of rapid change some people were suffering disproportionately—the world is not so much “falling apart” as “growing apart”.

The second half of the evening was given over to discussion both among the panellists and the large international audience. The following points (not in any order of priority) stayed in my mind.

A century ago Australia was fighting in World War I and was suffering, in per capita terms, one of the war’s heaviest losses. The world today is safer despite alarmist media claims, and it is necessary to let go of some of the fear that haunts public life in Australia and overseas.

There was disenchantment expressed over the established political system. However there were also some green shoots of hope. Non-governmental

Image: Dr Keith Suter



organizations were helping to set the pace on some issues. On climate change, for example, Indigenous groups and the business community were well ahead of politicians.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr Michael Spence, in opening the evening, acknowledged not only the traditional owners of the land but also noted – thanks to their wisdom – that there has been a “university” on this spot for millennia. The present plight of Australia’s Indigenous peoples was a theme reiterated throughout the evening, with discussion ranging from Indigenous representation in Parliament, to the observation that Australia’s Indigenous peoples are in effect, “internal refugees”.

Recent political events, such as the elections of Donald Trump and Pauline Hanson, also focussed consideration on the need to both celebrate diversity and oppose inequality. As long as there was inequality, there was the risk that extremist politicians would exploit discontent. Human development was therefore both morally sound and a guarantee of public safety.

The evening contained examples of optimism about what the world could do – and yet some pessimism on what the world would do. Education was identified as a good way to ensure greater progress on human development and protection of the environment.

The Roundtable was overall an affirmation of International House’s mission. The presentations and discussions had been a realistic assessment of how the world had changed in the past 50 years and an equally realistic outline on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Education and friendship in an international context remain key factors in making the world a better place.

Written by Dr Keith Suter

Global futurist Dr Keith Suter is a Foreign Affairs correspondent for Channel 7’s Sunrise program, and regularly discusses international affairs on radio 2GB. He was a resident of International House for several weeks before its first full term of operation, and has delivered numerous addresses at the House.

To stream the video of the Public Roundtable on demand, please visit our YouTube page. youtu.be/sCROgPrpCNE

Image: Vice-Chancellor and Principal joins IH Director and SUIHAA President with the panel of speakers for the 50th Anniversary Public Roundtable. L-R: Dr Jamal Rifi AM, Jessica Carroll, Dr Simon Longstaff AO, Dr Ros Madden AM, Dr Richard Denniss, Dr Michael Spence AC, Professor Jakelin Troy, Dorothy Hoddinott AO, Dr Helen Szoke, Geoffrey Cousins AM. © The University of Sydney, by Matthew Smith.

Foundation Day Address: Professor Louise Baur

“International House people always seemed more mature, more “together” than the general run of students. There seemed to be – and still seems to be – something special about those who spent time here.”

The annual Foundation Day Address was this year delivered by the Associate Dean and Head of the Children’s Hospital at Westmead Clinical School, Professor Louise Baur.

I was an undergraduate student at the University of Sydney from the mid to late 70s, then a doctoral student in the very late 80s/early 90s. While I wasn’t a student at International House, I have friends and colleagues who were. International House people always seemed more mature, more “together” than the general run of students. There seemed to be – and still seems to be – something special about those who spent time here. Those who attended International House have given wonderful accounts of their experiences - a warm, collegial environment, a place that is both nurturing and challenging, a place that celebrates diversity and which welcomes people from many cultures and backgrounds.

I have been asked to tell you a bit about my work and journey over the years. Like Dr Nuli Lemoh,

who is being honoured with an alumni award tonight, I am one of those most favoured of medical practitioners – the paediatrician. I trained in paediatrics largely here in Sydney, learning a great deal and enjoying it so very much. It’s wonderful to work with children and young people - it’s stimulating and fun. The health problems of this age group are fascinating. You get to work not just with the child or young person, but also with parents, siblings, grandparents and other parts of the extended family. And you are always reminded of the need to consider the broader psychosocial influences on the child’s health.

I was inspired by several people to pursue academic studies and so undertook PhD studies at the Children’s Hospital (which was then at Camperdown) on aspects



of under-nutrition in children. But as I was doing this work, I realised that a very significant health problem was emerging in Australia and elsewhere about which I knew very little: obesity.

Now, in the whole six years I had been an undergraduate medical student we had one 60 minute lecture on obesity. And even as a trainee paediatrician in the 1980s we had just a modicum of teaching on the issue. However, as I was busy not learning about obesity, it was emerging as one of the most prevalent health problems of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

I had just an inkling of this and made what seemed an enormous decision at the time to leave the confines of the familiar, friendly Children's Hospital – my comfort zone – and pursue postdoctoral studies in what seemed like the big, bad adult medicine world – Royal Prince

Alfred Hospital! I started working with a very talented group of scientists and clinicians, looking at the underlying physiology and biochemistry of obesity in rats and in humans. Both professionally and in many other ways, this three year position ended up being one of the most critical and life-changing periods of my life. My husband loves reminding me how ill-prepared I was for it. I said to him, shortly after starting, "I've made a really bad decision. I shouldn't have left the Children's Hospital. I don't know what people are saying. They use acronyms I've never heard. They know so many things I don't. I feel like I'm starting over again!" And my wise husband encouraged me to hang in there. Well, in just a few short weeks I was out-jargoning everyone and was fully immersed in that wonderful research environment. I learnt a great deal, and my whole career trajectory changed.

Since then, I have had to move out of my comfort zone several times. For example, when I began working as an academic paediatrician at the Westmead Precinct, when the Children's Hospital moved there in the mid-90s, I realised that we knew very little about how big a problem obesity was in Australian children. I discovered people called epidemiologists and biostatisticians who were experts at analysing information about diseases and disease risks in groups of people. Again, I had to learn a new language pretty quickly – with words like prevalence, incidence, risk ratios, ROC curves. And over more than 20 years, my colleagues and I have shown that obesity is very socially patterned. For example, in Australia, children who speak a Middle Eastern, Mediterranean or Asian language at home are more likely to be affected by obesity than those who speak English at home. Aboriginal children are also

vulnerable, as are children living in more socially disadvantaged parts of our country. Here in Sydney, if you live in Mosman or Vaucluse, you will be relatively protected from obesity compared with people living in western Sydney.

But it's not just in Australia that we have undertaken this epidemiological work. I have worked with Chinese colleagues to show that, in urban China, the male children of the One Child Policy have rates of obesity at least as high as boys in Australia or Europe. And I have a wonderful Indonesian PhD student, Cut Novianti Rachmi, who has shown that paediatric obesity is very much a rapidly emerging health issue in her country which is still also confronting the issue of undernutrition – a situation called the double burden of malnutrition.

But it wasn't enough to just describe the problem, we had to do something about it! And again, this is where I had to step out of my comfort zone. With my colleagues at Westmead, I started to provide clinical services for children affected by obesity, and in doing so realised that we needed to undertake research to determine which treatment approaches might work best. So I had to learn how to undertake quality clinical trials at several sites. How best do we involve parents in treatment programs? What about group programs for adolescents, or supporting young people through texting and phone coaching? What is

the role of medications? How safe and effective are dietary interventions? We asked these types of questions and then undertook studies to answer them.

Along the way we have not just written research papers. Far more importantly, we have helped to improve clinical services and train clinicians. We have been involved in developing clinical practice guidelines, in major systematic reviews, in multi-country analyses of treatment trials, and in the delivery of treatment services in different regions and countries.

Of course, we couldn't just stop at treating people affected by obesity. Other colleagues challenged me to think about preventing obesity in the first place.

One of our most successful pieces of work, which is still ongoing, has been a study led by my health promotion colleagues at Sydney Local Health District – Li Ming Wen and Chris Rissel – and undertaken in south-western Sydney with new mothers. We showed that home visits by early childhood nurses in the first two years of life led to relative protection from obesity in the child at age two years. This was the first study in the world to actually prevent obesity in childhood. It is now linked to several other studies in Australia and internationally, and is part of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in the Early Prevention of Obesity in Childhood, which I lead.

This sort of work, and more, has meant that I have been involved in a range of state, national and international groups working on aspects of obesity. Most recently I have been involved in the development of the World Health Organisation's Report on Ending Childhood Obesity, which was recently supported at the World Health Assembly. However, this is just an initial step in dealing with what is a hugely complex problem.

My key message here is that I have benefited enormously from working outside my initial training and apparent areas of expertise, of working with wonderful colleagues, and of working on issues about which I am very passionate. I want to embolden each of you to do the same.

I encourage all of you at International House to continue to be a source of great good in this world. May you help people to cross boundaries, to bridge cultural gaps, to accept differences in thought and tradition, and to be leaders in Australia and throughout the world.

Speech delivered on 9 June 2017 at International House by Professor Louise Baur

International House events

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- 1/ Stephen Sanders, Mateo Diego Rivera, and dance troupe at I-Night. © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.
- 2/ Brieanna Watson at I-Night. © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.
- 3/ Dr Lauris Elms AM OBE (IH Fellow) with artist Lyn Woodger Grant (IH 1971-72) alongside Lyn's portrait of Lauris at the 50th Anniversary Art and History Exhibition. © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.
- 4/ Residents celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. By Loklan Glance.

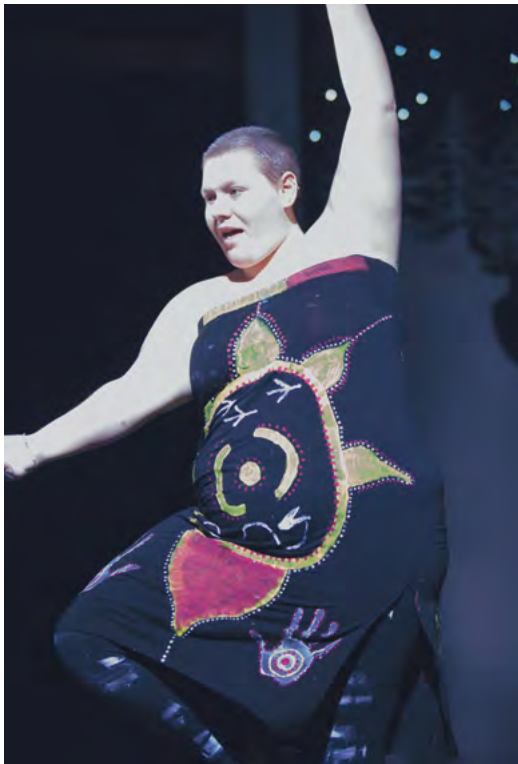
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- 5/ Adam Jacobs (MD, The Iconic) delivers a seminar on values-driven leadership as part of the Global Leadership Program. © The University of Sydney, by Matthew Smith.
- 6/ Jessica Carroll, Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, and Bronwyn Bancroft at the 50th Anniversary Art and History Exhibition. © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.
- 7/ The Australian National Maritime Museum is the venue for this year's IHMA Ball. L-R: Keiran O'Sullivan, Samuel Naylor, Ethan Shaw. By Loklan Glance.
- 8/ Jessica Carroll, Ana Cumming, Richard Ng (IH 1967-69), Edwina Halim (IH 2011-16) at the 50th Anniversary Open Day BBQ and Reunion. © The University of Sydney.
- 9/ Professor Vaughan Pratt (IH 1968-69) joins resident Lexi Brent and alumnus Samanvay Karambhe (IH 2013-16) as part of the Global Leadership Program.
- 10/ Intramural Sports competitors. IH residents won first in the men's tournament and second in the women's tournament in the 2017 competition. © The University of Sydney, by Caleb Niethé.



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When financial literacy combines with beauty services – a peace project like no other

IH Resident Isha Sandhu talks about how she used her US\$10,000 Davis Project for Peace grant to assist women in India increase their financial awareness and business skills.

Tell us about your project

In November 2016 the Indian government implemented a demonetisation policy which resulted in the withdrawal of INR500 (\$9.70 AUD) and 1000 (\$19.40) notes as legal tender. For females in cash-oriented industries such as beauty services, the demonetisation policy shocked their businesses and challenged their independence. My project, *Beauty & Banking*, was designed to assist women adversely affected by this policy in India, where approximately 76% of the adult population is not financially literate. The project aimed to increase the participants' financial skills and awareness, and to empower them within their businesses and households.

We conducted six mobile workshops and met approximately 300 participants. The banking partner, State Bank of India, facilitated workshops around the risks of cash and introduced contemporary banking practices including digital payment methods, loans, and business establishment protocols. We also ran parallel beauty workshops to contextualize this newly acquired financial knowledge within the practical setting of the beauty industry.

What challenges did you encounter?

The initial challenge was attracting participants, as the majority of women would not leave their day jobs to participate in a banking workshop. Most low-income, low-education participants did not know what to expect and were hesitant to come on board. To counter this, I changed the project design from a three-day conference into a series of mobile workshops. We went to the participants' training centres and salons, incorporating the knowledge as a part of their broader educational experience so they viewed it as a necessity for their profession. This led to greater social impact.



Image: L-R: State Bank of India Officer, a student volunteer model, project director Isha Sandhu and the Research Coordinator represent some of the different payment methods in new economies - mobile wallets, cheques and cash, debit cards, and credit cards.

How is the project sustainable?

The women who participated in the program are now capable of opening bank accounts, receiving and making electronic payments to suppliers and/or employees, and sharing their knowledge with others. A lot of women commented on how they could now start to secure their children’s future, help their elderly parents, and engage in financial transactions with greater confidence and independence. Through interacting with beauty business leaders, they have established a vision for their technical and professional growth, which they now know is not complete without banking awareness. They are more self-sufficient and aware of how to manage and develop their professional and personal finances. This translates into long-term growth and sustainability. The project was also designed to be highly transferable in that it can be incorporated into a variety of vocational curricula such as interior design, fashion, and hospitality.

What were your measures of success?

Alongside the personal stories of success, we conducted research into measuring financial awareness and confidence prior to attending the workshop. Initially, only 2% of participants had previously used any of the banking services listed. Throughout the sessions, we came back to this survey to ensure that participants were progressing with their awareness and would go on to use services such as internet banking, mobile banking, mobile wallets, equal monthly installments, and loan applications.

How has the project promoted peace?

Peace is a state of stability which allows one to create positive change in their lives. External and internal factors often create instability and deteriorate this peace, however I believe this instability does not leave one hopeless and without a course of action. For me, the creation of peace translates to empowering and enabling individuals and communities.

Beauty & Banking created peace through empowering individuals to restore their financial stability and create a stronger foundation for their future. The process was broken into three stages:

1. Defining the conflict: panic and disadvantage, created as a result of the new policy and the removal of cash notes;
2. Empowering the creation of stability: participants were equipped with the means to access banking services;
3. Positive change: participants grew confident in the use of current banking methods, and can now share their experience and knowledge with others.

What did you gain on a personal level from undertaking the project?

I drew my inspiration for this project from my own difficulties with opening a bank account in India after demonetisation. In designing *Beauty & Banking*, I realised the key difference between me and the thousands of conflicted salon workers was my ability to obtain and apply the information in order to help myself. While the government established new technologies and schemes following the shock, the gap lay in communication. For many girls, asking for help translated to 'being annoying to someone else' or 'doing something they were never made for'. Through this process, I discovered that socioeconomic and educational differences are often entrenched through lack of awareness and opportunity – after all, how do you know what you don't know? And how can you learn what you don't know exists?



Image: Students and faculty of Janki Devi Vocational Centre in New Delhi join *Beauty & Banking* facilitators after a workshop. Featuring two student models and everyone equipped with payment methods.

Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition 2017

Organised annually by SUIHAA, the Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition celebrates the significant contributions of Rosemary Berrick, who was instrumental in establishing International House's library and archives.

Open to all residents of the House, this year's competition attracted 55 submissions from which the judges selected eight finalist entries, including a first and a second-place entry. The judging panel was challenged by the huge diversity of genres from among the photographic submissions, and found it a happy challenge to decide upon eight finalists from such an array of quality photographs.

This year's winning photo, *Sentinel*, by Katelyn Bauer (Canada/Australia, Master of Management (CEMS)) was chosen for the suggestive dis(connection) between the figure of the child, gazing thoughtfully beyond the frame of the image, and that of the tourist above – apparently uninterested in whatever the child is finding so worthy of looking at. The perspective of the stairs offers a playful sense of scale for the child, who in the photographer's words is standing outside “one of the largest mosques in India...as if on guard.”

Also among the finalists is this year's winner of the “People's Choice Prize”, *The Catastrophic Molt* by Mallika Arya (India, Master of Sustainability), which received a total of 96 votes on Facebook!

The judges congratulate all finalists, and warmly commend each of the 33 residents who submitted images in this year's competition.

Dr Bradley Kunda (Chair)
Shun Yang Ch'ng (IH 2012-14)
Li Chi Pan (IH 2010-14)

- 1/ First Prize: *Sentinel* (Katelyn Bauer). “This young boy stood outside Jama Masjid (one of the largest mosques in India) as if on guard. I took this picture as we gathered, waiting to walk up the steps and enter” (by Katelyn Bauer).
- 2/ Runner-up: *Athens Sprawl* (Jeremy Kumar).
- 3/ Finalist and People's Choice Prize Winner: *The Catastrophic Molt* (Mallika Arya). “This picture was taken by me in Antarctica earlier this year. It is a colony of chin strap penguins who are going through their annual molt. They stay in one position for days and weeks and often look pretty miserable! But once they get their new coat of feathers they're ready to dive into the waters and spend the winter month there” (by Mallika Arya).

- 4/ Finalist: *Obstructions - Great Wall of China, Mutianyu* (Joseph Dowsett).
- 5/ Finalist: *Beginnings* (Thameesha Eliyapura).
- 6/ Finalist: *A Kangaroo in the Vineyard* (Loklan Glance).
- 7/ Finalist: *Great Barrier Reef* (Nadia Jam). “People make choices every day based on perspective. The way we see the world is not always what is unwillingly shown to us, but rather how we actively seek to broaden our horizons. I made the conscious decision to do my exchange in Sydney, Australia, which brought me to this phenomenal bird's eye view of the Great Barrier Reef. From diving deep down to admire the luminous school of fish and flying sky high to grasp the Earth's curvature, I was humbled. Nothing beats an adventure with a purpose, reminding us that in order to protect and preserve, we must treasure and respect” (by Nadia Jam).
- 8/ Finalist: *Magestic Grandeur* (Sayan Mitra). “Spending most of my school life in Darjeeling, I was in the midst of this majestic mountain range throughout my childhood. I could see this magnificence on every clear day from my school. Mt. Kanchenjunga is the third highest peak in the world and is part of the Himalayan mountain range. This shot was taken from Observatory Hill in Darjeeling, Bengal, India” (by Sayan Mitra).



Alumni profile

Dr Adrian Buzo



“I found myself taking my first bushwalks, queueing all night for ballet tickets, participating in car rallies...and joining hungry companions for late night sorties to Dixon Street and the legendary Fook Lee Club, eating away with the constant clack-clack illegal soundtrack of fantan sticks coming from the next room. All this I could certainly use, and it helped me grow as a person.”

My international exposure began rather early through my Albanian father (coincidentally also an IH alumnus from the University of California Berkeley), my globally-minded mother, and my aunt. After a childhood in rural New South Wales, I spent two years in my early teens at the International School of Geneva.

This was the early 1960s. Few Australians travelled abroad, and when they did it was to Britain (the Mother Country), with some sophisticates attracted to Europe, but with only a few brave souls engaged with the countries in our region. My aunt was one of these, touring alone through Thailand, Korea and Japan, and one hugely influential result of this was that our Sunday dinner table in Sydney was periodically graced by the presence of people she had met on her travels, and especially by Colombo Plan students passed on by friends of friends. The countries and people of our region thus became part of my natural social and intellectual landscape. And so when I began at the University of Sydney I asked my mother – and you can sense the tentativeness – ‘What would you say if I said I wanted to study Chinese?’ She responded quite enthusiastically, and so, I guess, a fate of sorts was sealed.

It was therefore rather natural that I should hook up with IH, and I duly took up residence for three years from 1969 while I was majoring in Japanese. The experience both broadened and deepened my international exposure, but perhaps somewhat paradoxically what I remember most is how it actually broadened my domestic horizons. Frequently changing schools, living abroad, being rather self-reliant, and maybe being a bit of a jerk had pushed me apart from my peer group, and I brought few friendships with me to uni. Before IH I did not add to the list, but once there I was so much more in my social element. The typical IH resident in those days was older, frequently of post-graduate standing, and that suited me fine.

But what was amazing was that after having been embedded in the impersonal, self-indulgent world of the Faculty of Arts, I found the IH people doing Medicine, Science, Education and especially Architecture so much more alive and switched on. Perhaps partly as an antidote to their more demanding curricula, they were always doing interesting things, and the House had a vibrant social life as a result. I found myself taking my first bushwalks, queueing all night for ballet tickets, participating in car

rallies, playing soccer, devoting an at times obsessive amount of time to playing billiards and poker, and joining hungry companions for late night sorties to Dixon Street and the legendary Fook Lee Club, eating away with the constant clack-clack illegal soundtrack of fantan sticks coming from the next room. All this I could certainly use, and it helped me grow as a person.

I needed little invitation to get to know overseas students, and in fact my memory is of the free and easy way in which all residents mingled together, in some cases bound together by the social talents of some unique individuals. In those far-off days we were all far more of an elite, most of us bound for achievement, success and security, and this gave us elements of a shared ethos that spilled over into our social life, crossed cultural boundaries and gave us lasting friendships. And hence, too, the high number of IH marriages, which by some reckoning passed the 50 mark sometime in the 1970s. I joined the trend, in a manner of speaking, when Erica Sparks (IH 1974-76) and I joined forces in 1977.

Of course, with a total of seven years’ IH residence between Erica and me, we regularly find ourselves at reunions of old IH friends, and after one such

reunion, I remarked that it's quite amazing how after not having seen someone for quite a few years, literally within a matter of minutes we often found ourselves like functioning family members, talking about quite personal things. Well, not really surprising, said Erica, because we were like brothers and sisters, living in adjoining rooms, using the same bathroom, suffering the same food.

On matters of career trajectory, I graduated in 1971, and with my background was picked up by Foreign Affairs. I guess they weren't very scientific in those days, and people my age with a broad-based experience of the world and its people outside Australia were at a premium. Anyway, at my request I went to Seoul to study Korean, and a cross-posting to Pyongyang followed, which ended when our embassy was unceremoniously kicked out in 1975. After that I had to decide very quickly whether to stay with diplomacy or begin a new career before I was too old. Not being much of an organization man and being a teacher by calling, I jumped ship into the unknown, training myself for a possible academic career in Korean Studies when the field did not yet exist in Australia. Some years went by before I finally secured positions at Swinburne and Monash Universities, and I'm now at Macquarie University.

The nature of the academic employment market obliges us all to be quite flexible in applying our skill set, and these days I apply myself to Translation and

Interpreting Studies, focusing on Korean. I've also acquired a reputation as a North Korean specialist and still write on the subject. I was very reluctant to get involved in what is a terribly disturbing predicament for us all, but my time there posed an intellectual challenge for me to understand North Korea, and I felt a need to convey that understanding to others.

So what of the role of the House? When I spoke at a House dinner a little while back I described us as living in the best of times and the worst of times. I think this is self-evident – spot fires of failure, dysfunction and depravity existing alongside major advances for the global community, reminding us again how far from lineal progression any given human endeavor is.

Amid this, my father used to say that a good internationalist is a good nationalist first. At first sight, this might seem a dangerous sequence, but he said this from the perspective of a WHO public health engineer with an incredibly internationalist CV. What he conveyed to me was that it simply behooves us all to be well grounded as individuals first, and then to embrace diversity – all forms of diversity – as a challenge that can enrich our lives in so many unexpected ways. Through living in the House we alumni have been given a special insight into such diversity on a personal level, and as a result it's so much more real to us. This is what we take out into the world, and the strength of our alumni ties shows how closely we have taken this to heart.

I think the final thing to say is on two unique founding individuals of the House, namely Rosalie McCutcheon and Graeme de Graaff. IH of course does not just happen, and each management team brings in its different style. In all the various stages of my career, cross-cultural sensitivity and vision have been in high demand and short supply, and time has not diminished my sense that here in their different ways were two of the very finest. They thoroughly contrasted with each other in so many ways, but also thoroughly complemented each other. We were all so much richer for Mrs. Mac's warmth and selfless devotion to the people around her, as well as for Graeme's meticulous management skills, his formidable intelligence, and his quick wit.

Written by Dr Adrian Buzo
IH 1969-71, 1977

Message from SUIHAA President



Issue #04, December 2011

What a wonderful celebratory 50th anniversary year it has been – with more to still come as this magazine goes to press.

We were inspired by so many delights. In April there was the world premiere of Christopher Bowen’s *There are three things that will endure in this world*. Rebecca MacCallion sang thrillingly about these three things: truth, hope and love.

On a beautiful sunny Sunday in July, crowds of alumni from all eras mingled in the IH garden and dining room, catching up across the years, meeting new people, seeing over the House and enjoying a delicious barbecue lunch. The next day, ‘Is the world coming together or falling apart?’ was the topic for a thought-provoking roundtable discussion on issues such as the environment, inequality, refugees, culture, and international development (See Dr Keith Suter’s article in this issue of the International House magazine). The Art and History Exhibition opened soon after, with the unveiling of a glorious painting by Bronwyn Bancroft commissioned for IH this year – a wonderful

evening of art in the Wool Room, made even more beautiful by the scent of gum leaves from the smoking ceremony.

A Pioneers’ Lunch was held at the House in October, bringing together early residents, who particularly recognised Graeme de Graaff as the Pioneer among pioneers for his leadership, vision and strength in the early years of the House. Finally, and perfect for the internationalist goals of IH, was the Gala Lunch in December with guest speaker Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, who has worked tirelessly for sustainable peace and development in a long and fascinating career.

SUIHAA has enjoyed working closely with IH and IHMA on these special events, as well as on the regular annual events. We are grateful that IHMA has continued to donate the proceeds of their Charity Night (this year a hilarious skills auction) to the Bo Children’s Hospital in Sierra Leone – operating under the leadership of Rotary and strongly supported since its founding by IH alumni.

SUIHAA is also supporting IH in its plans for future development. We prepared a celebratory document, featuring a brief history of IH, some ‘notable alumni’, and alumni ideas about the future of IH.

– sydney.edu.au/internationalhouse/alumni/about/index.shtml

A small group of alumni met with senior University administrators in August, to explain some of these ideas and why IH is of value not only to residents but also as a university ‘gem’. The House has the potential to be a hub for scholarly learning and research, social and cultural interaction, and a strategic space for international engagement, as well as an enlarged residential college.

Written by Dr Ros Madden AM
SUIHAA President

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Do you have news to share? Please write to suihaa@sydney.edu.au
We would love to include your notice in our next issue.



Image above: Inspecting an early House photo. L-R Lauris Elms, Pauline Lyle-Smith, Ros Madden, Pauline Kennedy, Bronwen Bryant, Graeme de Graaff. © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.

Image right: Alumni from 1967-1970 return to IH for the Pioneers' Lunch. © The University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey.



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Dr Bradley Kunda (Residential Life Officer, and resident as Assistant Director since 2013)
2018 IHMA Chairperson

Dates denote years at IH

Vale

Tony Skinner (IH 1970-71)

It is with great sadness that IH alumni have learnt of the recent death of Tony Skinner. We offer our sincere sympathy to Geraldine, also a former IH resident (1971).

Tony grew up in Cooma, after his family migrated to Australia in 1956 when Tony's father, Harry, joined the Snowy scheme as an electrical engineer (later becoming Deputy Commissioner and Acting Commissioner).

Tony was a National Service conscript and spent a year in Vietnam serving in an Artillery Regiment of the Australian Army. He resumed his undergraduate studies at the University of Sydney and obtained a BSc, majoring in Computer Science. Tony and Geraldine were married in Canberra in January 1973.

Tony joined the Commonwealth Public Service in Canberra, and later gained the position of Assistant Commissioner, Australian Taxation Office

(Information Systems). He left the ATO around 1990 to become Assistant Secretary at the Department of Foreign Affairs. His role there was to oversee the implementation of ADCNET - the Australian Diplomatic Communications Network.

In 1996 Tony and Geraldine left Canberra and moved to Sydney. Tony then became CEO of Higher Ed Systems, a company owned by the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee and providing comprehensive IT support systems to the university sector. He retired from there on 31 December 2000 - according to Geraldine, 'in typical Tony style he liked to point out was the last day of the last millennium'. He retired early by choice so that he could pursue his great interests - bridge, bushwalking and travel. He is survived by Geraldine, their daughter Clare, son Sam and three grandchildren.

Written by Rod Thyer, Geraldine Skinner and Ros Madden



Image: 2017 IHMA Executive: Wei Shern Wong, Stephen Sanders, Pippa Herden. © The University of Sydney, by Rochelle Whatman.

(Continued from page 3)

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Celebrating 50 years of International House

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6,000+ Students and scholars have called International House home since we opened our doors in 1967

95+ Different countries represented by International House residents

20+ International House and SUIHAA scholarships and bursaries awarded annually

International House has a lot to celebrate in 2017, and your gift is important in continuing our many achievements.

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Creating global friendships since 1967

Thank you for helping us celebrate 50 years of International House





Resident Linh Nguyen (Bachelor of Music, Performance) at I-Night 2017.
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For more information

International House
The University of Sydney
96 City Road, Darlingtown NSW 2008
+61 2 9950 9800

Our community

International House brings together Australian and international students from all over the world. Our diverse and close-knit community has been home to over 6000 students and scholars since we opened our doors in 1967.